

MAR 12 1924 ✓

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FLAPPER WIVES ✓

Photoplay in seven reels ✓

Story by Jane Murfin ✓

Directed by Jane Murfin and Justin McCloskey ✓

Author of photoplay (under Sec. 62)  
Jane Murfin of the United States ✓

# SYNOPSIS ©CIL 19971

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**S**TEPHEN CAREY, first of all a man and only incidentally rector of a fashionable church, clashes repeatedly with his hide-bound vestrymen, who finally force him to resign.

Stephen believes that the tangled affairs and misfortunes of men and women can be pretty well taken care of by a firm belief, and he has a chance to work this out when he leaves the church.

He goes to work as a simple mechanic in the garage of Tim Callahan, a war-time pal and warm friend, and the troubles of those around him shake his beliefs to their foundation.

On the night of the vestry meeting that ousted him, Stephen's courage is defended warmly by Claudia Bigelow, wife of Charles Bigelow, a narrow-minded aristocrat and the moving power in the vestry. Bigelow leads the attack against the rector, and Claudia, furious at his bigotry, goes for aid to Vincent Platt, an old admirer.

At Vincent's house, Claudia nervously smokes a cigarette, then leaves it burning on the table as she goes out with Platt. The latter had promised to take to the circus that night little Jimsy, the son of his housekeeper Hulda, and in his hurry to return in time, Platt drives into a fence and is injured.

Claudia's cigarette, meanwhile, sets fire to the hangings of the room. Hulda discovers the blaze too late. She rushes through the flames to Jimsy, and saves his life, but not his eyes. The doctors say that his sight is gone forever.

Claudia's return home is delayed by the accident, and her husband is furious. Storming about her room, he comes upon some letters from Platt. When Claudia finally arrives with Platt, there is a scene, and Bigelow accuses his wife of bringing scandal on his name. When he mentions divorce, Claudia, wearied and hysterical, does not explain or defend herself, but tells him to go ahead.

When Claudia learns of Jimsy's misfortune, blaming herself for it, she is heart-broken. She prays with Stephen as he offers up prayer for Jimsy's sight, crying aloud, "Surely God cannot mean a little boy to pay for my carelessness!" But there is no miracle, and Stephen presents to the child his dog, Wolf, to act as playfellow and guide.

One day Stephen tells Claudia that her husband wants to discontinue divorce proceedings but Claudia replies that she cannot return to him. Stephen asks if she cares for some other man. She says, "Yes," and confesses that the man is Stephen himself.

Tim Callahan's wife, Sadie, prefers jazzing to cooking and one night after a quarrel with her stay-at-home husband she goes out with Tony, a would-be sport, in his flivver. They are caught in a terrific storm and the tin Lizzie declines to move. After hours spent in the mud and rain Sadie and Tony hail a passing truck and are given a lift back to town.

Meanwhile Tim is raging around the tiny apartment above the garage. Stephen hears him and goes in and talks over the matter. He tells Tim that it is at such times that marriages are made or broken and advises him to be patient with his wife. Consequently when Sadie limps in drenched and weary, Tim deals tenderly with her and their reconciliation is accomplished.

Stephen is teaching Jimsy to read with his fingers and one day when the child is seated in the office at the garage, Stephen again prays for the restoration of the child's sight. This time he is successful. Jimsy sees.

Hulda, Jimsy's mother, hates Claudia as the cause of her son's blindness and is determined to be revenged. She goes to the garage fully prepared to throw acid in Claudia's eyes. Her arm is raised to hurl the liquid when the office door is opened and Jimsy calls, "Mother, I can see!" Hulda is overjoyed and begs Claudia's forgiveness for the injury she had almost done her, and the picture closes with happiness ahead for every one.



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....., 19.....

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